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From: Todd A. Sullivan

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Client/Matter No. 11702/54246

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

October 7, 2003

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Via Facsimile

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandra, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Jessica L. Rossi, Examiner

**Re: Identification and Maintenance Sleeve Patent Application
Application No. 09/992958
Docket No. 11702/54246**

Dear Examiner Rossi:

I have received your office action dated August 13, 2003, regarding the above-referenced patent application, and I would like to set up a time when I can give you a call to discuss your office action further and, perhaps, devise an amendment to overcome the office action.

Specifically, I think there is a novelty in the invention that was disclosed in the specification that was not covered by the cited prior art, but I may have failed to sufficiently claim in the claims of the application. Accordingly, I would like to discuss a possible amendment to add that limitation of the claims, specifically the limitation I have in mind has to do with the labeling information being integral with the shrink-wrap sleeve. In the referenced patent, Boitnott, the disclosed shrink-wrap apparatus is directed primarily at maintaining the integrity of the container, with a label disclosed that is adhesively attached to the refrigerant container. In the Admitted Prior Art, adhesives, tie-tags, and painting labels are disclosed. In the Applicant's disclosed invention, the Applicant is attempting to claim a shrink-wrap label, that is, labeling information that is part of the shrink-wrap, an idea that is not disclosed by Boitnott or the Admitted Prior Art.

The remaining referenced patent, Nugent, is directed at a shrink-wrap used to maintain the integrity of a glass vial used for bodily fluids, capable of being used as a label. The Applicant's invention is directed towards a conveniently removed label on a refrigerant container, with no purpose toward the container's integrity, but has utility for the continued reuse of the refrigerant container, (a purpose for which we believe the Nugent bodily fluids vials are non-analogous). I do not believe that the cited art renders the Applicant's invention obvious, although I am willing to accept the claims may have been written too broadly to properly claim the invention novelty. Hopefully, when we discuss the invention, we can come up with other, more acceptable language

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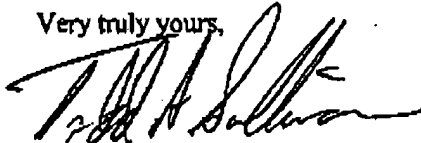
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that can be used to limit the invention to a shrink-wrap label for re-usable refrigerant containers,
thereby overcoming the referenced art.

I will try to give you a call in the next day or so to set up a time for an examiner interview when
we can discuss this issue. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,



Todd A. Sullivan

TAS/amm

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